

PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps of Engineers New York District Jacob K. Javits Federal Building New York, N.Y. 10278-0090 ATTN: Regulatory Branch

In replying refer to:

Public Notice Number: 2000-01417-J1 Issue Date: July 25, 2005

Expiration Date: August 23, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

The New York District, Corps of Engineers has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

APPLICANT:

City of South Amboy

City Hall, 140 North Broadway South Amboy, NJ 08879

ACTIVITY:

Construct a ferry dock and elevated passenger walkway, floating breakwater and wave

attenuator and dredge with upland disposal

WATERWAY:

Raritan Bay

LOCATION:

City of South Amboy, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

A detailed description and plans of the applicant's activity are enclosed to assist in your review.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THE PERMIT APPLICATION MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND MAILED TO REACH THIS OFFICE BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE, otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

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Any person may request, in writing, before this public notice expires, that a public hearing be held to collect information necessary to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons why a public hearing should be held. It should be noted that information submitted by mail is considered just as carefully in the permit decision process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

Our preliminary determination is that the activity for which authorization is sought herein is not likely to affect any Federally endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. However, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531), the District Engineer is consulting with the appropriate Federal agency to determine the presence of and potential impacts to listed species in the project area or their critical habitat.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Fisheries Service (NMFS) on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A complete description of the project is given in the attached Work Description. The District Engineer has made the preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effects are not likely to be substantial. Further consultation with NMFS regarding EFH impacts and conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

The project is situated within the area of the South Amboy terminus of the National Register of Historic Places eligible Camden and Amboy Railroad Historic District. The District Engineer is performing required coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Reviews of activities pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act and the applicant will obtain a water quality certificate or waiver from the appropriate state agency in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act prior to a permit decision.

Pursuant to Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456 (c)], for activities under consideration that are located within the coastal zone of a state which has a federally approved coastal zone management program, the applicant has certified in the permit application that the activity complies with, and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with, the approved state coastal zone management program. By this public notice, we are requesting the state's concurrence with, objection to, or waiver of the applicant's certification. No permit decision will be made until one of these actions occur. For activities within the coastal zone of New Jersey the applicant's certification and accompanying information is available from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Coastal Regulation, CN 401, 501 East State Street, Second Floor, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0401, Telephone Number (609) 633-2289. Comments regarding the applicant's certification should be so addressed.

In addition to any required water quality certificate and coastal zone management program concurrence, the applicant has obtained or requested the following governmental authorization for the activity under consideration:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Permit

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It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the activity to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice. If you have any questions concerning this application, you may contact this office at (917) 790-8514 and ask for Sophie Ettinger.

For more information on New York District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at http://www.nan.usace.army.mil

Richard L. Tomer

Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

WORK DESCRIPTION

The applicant, City of South Amboy, has requested Department of the Army authorization to dredge with upland disposal, install a breakwater, ferry dock and walkway, and a wave attenuator in Raritan Bay, City of South Amboy, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

The work would involve:

- 1. Dredging would take place using a clamshell bucket in the area of proposed ferry docks and access channel into the docks. Approximately 36,000 cubic yards of material would be dredged to a maximum depth of 10 feet below the plane of mean low water. Dredged material would be disposed at an upland on-site location. The dredged material containment area would be constructed with earthen bermed sides. Dewatering effluent would be conveyed from the containment area through a vegetated swale into a stormwater detention pond. After approximately 24 to 36-hours in the detention pond, the effluent would be returned to Raritan Bay. The dredged material would be used as fill to bring upland portions of the site to the desired grades.
- 2. Construction of the untreated wood breakwater would consist of a floating structure approximately 816 feet in length and 40 feet in width. The breakwater depth would be 10 feet, consisting of two-feet freeboard above the water surface and eight-feet of depth below the surface. The breakwater would be held in place with 18 steel piles, located on 48-foot centers.
- 3. The pile supported ferry dock would be attached to the mainland by a pile supported walkway. The ferry dock would consist of a floating barge measuring 155 feet long and 55 feet wide and anchored by four piles and 10 foot wide by 60 foot long ramp. The 14 foot wide walkway would extend approximately 140-feet from spring high tide to the ferry dock. It would pass across a vegetated saltmarsh (Spartina alterniflora) at an elevation of approximately 12 feet above mean low water and for a distance of approximately 80-feet.
- 4. The wave attenuator would be constructed of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) floats approximately 265 feet long and 6.5 feet wide. It would be anchored with ten steel or composite spud piles. The wave attenuator depth would be 7 feet, with approximately six feet below the water surface.
- 5. Vegetate an area of approximately 4,600 square feet between the existing degraded bulkhead and the eroded upland with <u>Spartina alterniflora</u> and <u>S. patens.</u>

Approximately 199.0 linear feet of bulkhead and stormwater outlet would be installed landward of spring high tide along the upland portion of the public walkway, therefore would be outside of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction.

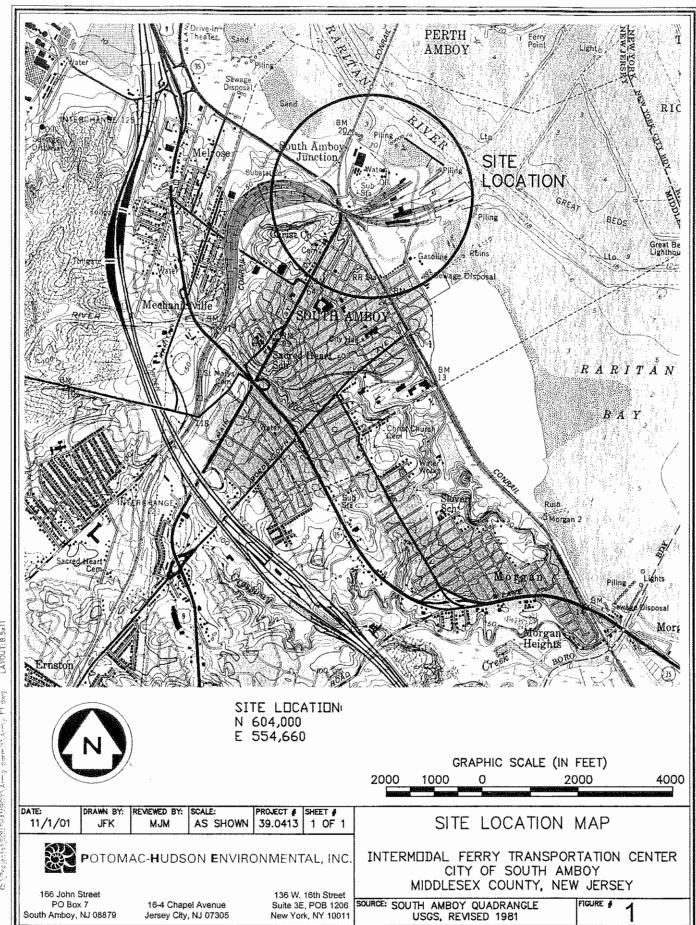
The stated purpose of this project is to provide an alternative mode of the transportation for public traveling to New York City.



South Amboy, NJ 08879

Jersey City, NJ 07305

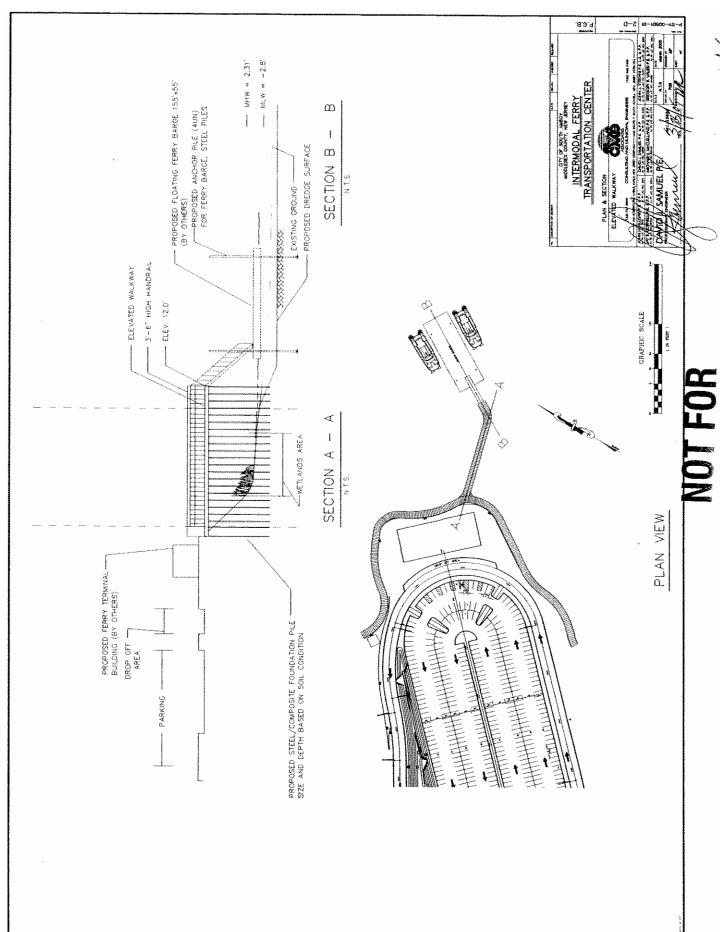
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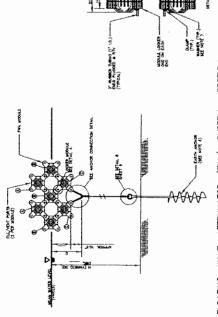
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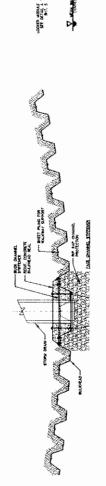
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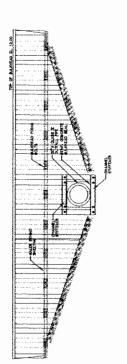
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